

2018 Tribal Environmental Program Management Conference
March 20 - 22, 2018 ~ Chicago, Illinois
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator Talking Points

- Good morning. On behalf of the new Regional Administrator Cathy Stepp, welcome to Chicago and our annual Region 5 Tribal Environmental Program Management Conference (tee-pum).
- I hope that many of you were able to participate in the pre-conference activities yesterday, which I understand included very informative tribal government overviews. This was the third year we have included the overviews in conjunction with the Conference and each year they have grown in popularity and interest; not only with the tribes in attendance but also with our EPA staff. Thank you to those tribal governments who presented (Grand Portage Band, Red Cliff Band, and Pokagon Band) and I would encourage other tribes to consider presenting in future years. It's a real opportunity for EPA and other tribes to better understand your history and environmental successes and challenges.
- This year the Conference features several new components, including:
 - "SLAM" sessions, where presenters will be imparting short 5-minute presentations
 - "Lightning" sessions, where a group of presenters share their experiences about a certain topic such as water quality challenges.
 - The first ever "ECO Café" held in conjunction with the TEPM conference will host 30 exhibitors who will share resources and information on an array of topics.

I want to thank all the tribal presenters for lending their knowledge and experience to the Conference. Region 5 appreciates your efforts to make this Conference as useful as possible for all attendees.

- As in past years, the Conference includes representatives from a number of federal and state agencies that are key members of our environmental protection partnerships. EPA extends a welcome to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff in attendance at the conference. Region 5 remains committed to identifying opportunities for multi-agency projects and initiatives related to protection of human health and the environment in Indian country.
- Region 5 is also pleased that representatives from our EPA Headquarters Office are able to join the Conference this week.
 - We appreciate the national insight that you are able to provide.
 - And hope that the Region 5 issues and perspectives that you hear during your visit will be shared with your colleagues when you return to Headquarters.
- In conclusion, I wish you all a productive next two days and hope that you enjoy your visit to Chicago.